

REMARKS

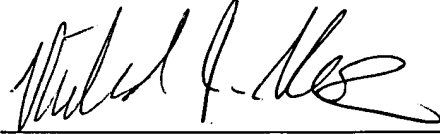
In response to the restriction requirement, Applicants elect (i.e., restrict the present application to) the Group I claims (i.e., claims 1-34). The present election/restriction is made solely to comply with the March 2, 2004 office action, and should not be construed as acknowledgement that either the election/restriction requirement itself or the reasons offered by the Examiner in support thereof is proper, nor as a surrender of any subject matter in the present application.

Applicants respectfully reserve the right to seek coverage for any or all of non-elected claims 35-37 in a subsequently filed, related application.

Applicants also respectfully point out that claims 38 and 39 are pending in this application, yet were not included among the Group I or Group II claims within the March 2, 2004 office action. Claim 38 depends from claim 36, which was categorized within Group II by the Examiner, and claim 39 depends from claim 37, which was categorized within Group II by the Examiner. Therefore, Applicants hereby assume that the Examiner intended to categorize claims 38 and 39 within Group II. If this assumption is correct, Applicants do not traverse that categorization, and Applicants respectfully reserve the rights to seek patent protection for claims 38 and 39 in a subsequently filed, related application as well.

Applicants submit that this communication is fully responsive to the present office action, and respectfully request early consideration and allowance of elected claims 1-34 of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard J. Roos (Reg. No. 45,053)
EDWARDS & ANGELL, LLP
P.O. Box 55874
Boston, MA 02205
Tel: 617-439-4444
Fax: 617-439-4170

Date: March 19, 2004